

Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

following step 270 OCR is performed conventionally on the characters in ~~said~~ the box using conventional software means 120, with the end of this recognition operation being marked by the computer returning control to the user, for example.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

An important point is that the above designation operations are performed only when indexing a first document of a given type_T. ~~If since~~ providing the following documents for processing are of the same type, then the test in step 220 obtains a "yes" answer and there is no longer any need to point at the same zones carrying the various items required for indexing. Since the software 130 can store the coordinates of the boxes in the characterization database 38 once they are initially designated, it then suffices merely to search for the same boxes in the following documents starting from the origin point (with resemblance being tested over the area of the box and with a certain amount of tolerance as explained with reference to Figure 5), and once each box has been identified, the content thereof is analyzed automatically by OCR without any prior designation of any point whatsoever in the boxes.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the attached new Abstract of the Disclosure at the end of this document.

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ABSTRACT

A method of recognizing and indexing documents, using a scanner connected to a computer, the method including scanning the documents, then using a pointing device or member of the computer to designate an arbitrary point P in at least one box of the documents, and finally recognizing by OCR the characters in ~~said~~ the box so as to store them in a first database connected to the computer to enable documents scanned in this way to be indexed. The designation step comprises a step of searching for and identifying the box of the document containing ~~said~~ the point P designated by the user.